

4 What are some of the dangers of our country?

5 What are some of the problems before us as a people?

6 What are some of the duties we as individual citizens have?

7 What warning have we from Sodom? Ezek. 16:49.

O. F. YODER.

Christian Life

The Valley of Silence

ABRAM J. RYAN

In the hush of the valley of silence
I dream all the songs that I sing;
And the music floats down the dim valley,
Till each finds a word for a wing,
That to hearts, like the dove of the Deluge,
—A message of peace they may bring.

But far on the deep there are billows
That never shall break on the beach;
And I have heard songs in the silence
That never shall float into speech;
And I have had dreams in the valley
Too lofty for language to reach.

And I have seen thoughts in the valley—
Ah me! how my spirit was stirred!
And they wear holy veils on their faces—
Their footsteps can scarcely be heard;
They pass thru the valley like virgins,
Too pure for the touch of a word.

Do you ask me the place of the valley,
Ye hearts that are harrowed by care?
It lieth afar between mountains,
And God and his angels are there;
One is the dark mountain of sorrow,
And one the bright mountain of prayer.

These are the Names

Exodus 1:1.

Who cares to know these names? They are thirty-five hundred years old and one would think that they were of no interest to us at all. But there are some names that live, live thru all the ages to come and thru eternity. For some reason these names are dear to God and it has pleased him to preserve, not the names only, but the record of the noble deeds for which the names stand. Very few among those who were great in the eyes of the world at that time are remembered to-day nor are their names to be found anywhere in this world. We turn back the pages of history to that remote period of antiquity which marks the beginning of a new era in the world's civilization, and out of the wrecks and ruin of human things in those ancient times we have here not the names of kings and poets and philosophers and conquerors, but the names of God's children, those who were in the line of God's chosen people. Our dear heavenly Father writes the names of his children in the book of life and they are the really immortal ones. The names and deeds of those who live in this world to honor and glorify and bless their fellowmen will live thru all time to come, they are immortal. Love never dies, and it never fails. What you do in the name of Jesus to help the work of the Master, to cheer and comfort

and help the fallen will never fade out of the universe. Long ages after you are gone from the earth your deeds of love go on blessing generations that were unborn when you lived here. This is a great comfort to those who live obscurely in this world, who have no opportunity to do great things as things are measured by the world, who expect to be forgotten when they go to the grave, these will be greatly surprised to find that God has written in imperishable lines in his own blessed book the deeds of love which they have done, and to them will come the welcome plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," etc. Why? Because "inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." Let the isolated in the church take courage. God will not forget their labor of love.

Satisfied in the Morning

How shall we begin our days, morning by morning, so as to get the most and make the best out of them? With a divine morning-satisfaction, such as that for which the ancient Psalmist pleads, "O satisfy us in the morning with thy mercy." (Ps. 90:14, R. V.)

"Satisfy us." This is much to ask. We cannot ask more—there is nothing beyond. We dare not ask less—it is God whom we ask.

"Satisfy us." Is it possible to satisfy these yearning, needy, hungry souls? Yes; "with God all things are possible." Not with the coveted objects of human ambition and desire. Not with silver and gold, honor and power and pleasure. With thy mercy. That can satisfy.

"Satisfy us in the morning." No broken days, no empty days, no dark, barren days. The morning satisfaction of the mercy of God will sweeten the whole day, each day, all the days. In the morning satisfy us, then we shall not hew us out broken cisterns, or seek the springs of worldly pleasure. The morning satisfaction will make us happy and strong and of a good courage for all the hours that follow.

O Lord our God, "satisfy us in the morning with thy mercy."

Study the Bible

Now, I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible, says D. L. Moody. If a man neglects his Bible, he may pray and ask God to use him in his work, but God cannot make much use of him; for there is not much for the Holy Ghost to work upon. We must have the word itself, which is sharper than any two-edged sword. Now, if you read the sermon spoken by Moses before he left the children of Israel, you will find it was just a rehearsal of what God had done for them, and of their deliverance from the cruel hands of Pharaoh; of the destruction of their enemies in the Red Sea, and their safe conduct thru the wilderness; and yet I do not suppose there was a boy in the

camp who could not have told it ten times over. And you will find that Joshua did the same; and when Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost the Spirit of the Lord was in him, and he went on quoting scripture to the people, and that was the arrow that went down into their souls. Then, again, what did the devout and martyred Stephen do but just rehearse and expound the Scriptures from the time of Abraham downwards?

Missions

Washington Letter

There are many strange things "under the sun," but one of the strangest things is, for people who claim to be contending earnestly for the "whole gospel," to utterly ignore and set aside one of the very plainest things contained therein. Yes, and preachers at that! Can that be possible? I'll tell what it is and then let the facts in the case answer.

Please read I Cor. 16:1, 2. Does this part of the gospel need to be practiced or not? If it is not a commandment to be obeyed, why contend for other things? If Brother Lyon were to proceed to hold a lovefeast and omit the observance of the supper or footwashing, do you think it would be long before a great cry would go out about it? Some preachers would soon get hoarse talking about it, but now mark you, concerning the offering on the first day of the week, they will never get hoarse talking about that. If Brother Lyon were to proceed to take somebody into church fellowship without being baptized first by trine immersion, those ministers would soon cry out exceedingly and get red in the face, but mark you, they never get red in the face teaching I Cor. 16:1, 2.

I am sure they will never get red in the face practicing it. And yet they keep on crying out, "whole gospel! whole gospel!" That cry is all right, but why not practice as well as cry? When I cry out "whole gospel" and fail to exemplify what I cry, better quit spelling "whole" with a "w." It would be more consistent to leave off the "w." Really I am at a loss to understand it. If I am informed correctly there are congregations, not a few in the brotherhood, where the weekly offerings are not known. Meetings are held but no collections taken for any purpose whatever. I am a firm believer in making our giving an act of worship and have that a part of every service. Then if the funds are not needed at home, help others elsewhere; if they are not needed to relieve physical needs, let them be applied to spiritual needs, preaching the gospel, etc.

I close with this question: Can I be a consistent member of the Brethren church and fail to practice I Cor. 16:1, 2? What think ye?

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